

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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O 131600Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1989

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1757

EXDIS

FOR S/PRS AND ARA/LA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT - PRESS CONFERENCE

1. WE STILL HAVE OPEN THE QUESTION OF A PRESS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS. IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT A BRIEF MEETING WITH THE LOCAL MEDIA IS OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT. THE REPORTERS HERE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY ACUTE OR AGGRESSIVE. BUT THEY CAN BE NASTY INDEED IF THEY THINK THEY'VE BEEN IGNORED OR BADLY TREATED.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY HOLD A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE (30-40 MINUTES) AT THE MACUTO SHERATON JUST BEFORE HE DELIVERS HIS SPEECH, THE CONFERENCE TO CONVENE ABOUT 1645. THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO DO IT AFTER THE SPEECH. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY. THE TIMING WOULD BE IMPRECISE GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW LONG THE SECRETARY MIGHT REMAIN WITH THE SYMPOSIUM; THE REPORTERS FOR THE MORNING PAPERS WOULD MISS THEIR DEADLINES AND THE IMPACT WOULD BE MATERIALLY DIMINISHED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SPEECH.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.

SHLAUDEMAM

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